

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR

30 (P)

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 28 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT TODAY WARNED INVESTORS THAT IT WILL NOT CONDONE UNFAIR TREATMENT OF THEIR MALAYSIANS WORKERS.

(DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD), WHO GAVE THIS WARNING, SAID EMPLOYERS, BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL, SHOULD IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE LABOUR LAWS BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS AND LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR WORKERS.

+IF EMPLOYERS DO THIS AND HELP TO CREATE AND PROMOTE HEALTHY WORK ENVIRONMENTS THEN WE CAN BE ASSURED OF NOT ONLY OUR CONTINUED STRENGTH BUT ALSO INDUSTRIAL HARMONY,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA) SPONSORED SEMINAR ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN AMENDING THE LABOUR LEGISLATIONS WAS PART OF ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO CREATE AN INVESTMENT CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO HEALTHY INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

— BERNAMA MORE 1230/SZ

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE, HE EXPLAINED, WAS MOTIVATED BY ITS DESIRE TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATED MALAYSIAN YOUTHS WHO WERE POURING INTO THE LABOUR MARKET EVERY YEAR.

+IT IS THIS SAME DEDICATION, THIS SAME EFFORT UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST THAT HAS CREATED THE THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING NOW ENJOYED BY MALAYSIANS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOWEVER REMINDED MALAYSIANS WHO WERE ALREADY EMPLOYED NOT TO ADOPT THE SELFISH ATTITUDE OF TRYING TO DISTORT THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE THAT HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF THEIR OWN JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

HE SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT CAREFULLY PLANNED ITS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, ITS LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO CREATE THE EXISTING INVESTMENT CLIMATE, MANY OF THE THOUSANDS WHO WERE NOW EMPLOYED AND THE HUNDREDS WHO WERE IN TRADE UNIONS AND EVEN SOME OF THEIR LEADERS MIGHT BE UNEMPLOYED. 40

HE REMINDED THAT THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE WAS A CHERISHED POSSESSION, NOT OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT OF THE PEOPLE— THOSE WHO WERE EMPLOYED AS WELL AS THOSE UNEMPLOYED. — BERNAMA MORE 1233/SZ

NO14 (F)  
MAHATHIR—SEMINAR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+IF ACTIONS BY LABOUR UNIONS, IN THEIR DESIRE TO CREATE A CONFRONTATION SITUATION WITH EMPLOYERS AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT, CONTINUES, THEN THEY WOULD BE TEARING DOWN THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF AN ECONOMY THROUGH WHOSE STRENGTH AND BOUYANCY THEY THEMSELVES DEPEND UPON FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY FOREIGN INVESTORS IN DEVELOPED NATIONS WHO WERE CLOSING DOWN FACTORIES OR WERE EXPERIENCING TOTALLY UNPROFITABLE SITUATIONS BECAUSE OF UNREASONABLE LABOUR DEMANDS THAT WERE OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF WORKERS.

HE SAID THE LEADERSHIPS OF THESE UNIONS WISHED TO SHOW THEIR POWER AND THEIR STRENGTH BY FLEXING THEIR MUSCLES AGAINST EMPLOYERS AND THE GOVERNMENT, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WORKERS.

+IF MALAYSIA TAKES THIS DISASTROUS COURSE, OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE DEPRIVED OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN ONLY COME THROUGH A HEALTHY INVESTMENT CLIMATE.

+EXISTING INVESTORS ALSO MAY BE FORCED TO REDUCE THEIR INVESTMENTS OR EVEN CLOSE DOWN OPERATIONS, THUS CREATING A SITUATION WHERE EVEN EXISTING WORKERS WILL JOIN THE RANKS OF THE UNEMPLOYED.+  
— BERNAMA MORE 1235/SZ

NO15 (F)  
MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS TO PREVENT THE MATERIALISATION OF THIS SCENARIO THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD INTRODUCED THE RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE LABOUR LAWS.

+WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTHY INVESTMENT CLIMATE THAT WE ARE NOW ENJOYING WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING THE BEST POSSIBLE DEAL FOR OUR MALAYSIAN CITIZENS, NOT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED BUT ALSO THOSE WHO WILL SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID. TO WORKERS OF THE COUNTRY, HE SAID THAT +THOSE WHO WILL SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE FUTURE ARE YOUR OWN SONS AND DAUGHTERS, NEPHEWS AND NIECES.+

+THE ACTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE WILL BE TO PRESERVE THE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT WE ENJOY SO THAT YOUR OWN CHILDREN AND THOSE OF YOUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WILL HAVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

— BERNAMA MORE 1240/SZ

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE CONSIDERED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING THE FIVE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS—JENGA TRIANGLE, JOHOR TENGGARA, TRENGGANU TENGAH, PAHANG TENGGARA AND SOUTH KELANTAN — A MIRACLE OF MODERNISATION.

IT WAS ALSO A TREMENDOUS EFFORT THAT HAD FEW PARALLELS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE REGRETTED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE EFFORTS HAD NOT BEEN SO WELL PUBLICISED.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE FIVE REGIONAL AREAS COVERED A TOTAL LAND AREA EXCEEDING 7.54 MILLION ACRES OF UNTAPPED NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD COMMITTED MORE THAN \$1 BILLION FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

+WE ARE IN EFFECT CREATING A NEW ECONOMIC ENTITY APPROXIMATELY THE SIZE OF BELGIUM OR THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF HONG KONG AND MANY TIMES THE SIZE OF SINGAPORE,+ HE SAID.

HE LIKENED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREAS AND THE DEDICATION OF THE STAFF OF THE VARIOUS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES AND SETTLERS TO THE AMERICAN LEGEND OF +HOW THE WEST WAS WON.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1300/AB

MMO22 (F)

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

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+BUT, IN MALAYSIA, WE ARE NOW CREATING A LEGEND OF HOW THE EAST, SOUTH AND CENTRAL PART OF OUR COUNTRY IS BEING WON.

+IN YEARS TO COME AS IT IS NOW, THESE EFFORTS WOULD MAKE A DRAMATIC STORY OF GRIT AND DETERMINATION, FAILURE AND SUCCESS.

+THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, BOTH MALAYSIAN AND FOREIGN, TO JOIN IN TRYING TO CREATE THIS LEGEND.+

MIDA CHAIRMAN DATUK JAMIL JAN, IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS, SAID THE FIVE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS REPRESENTED THE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE INDUSTRIAL, AGRO INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

THEY ALSO REPRESENTED THE SCOPE FOR THE DISPERSAL OF INDUSTRIES AND FOR THE CREATION OF A COMPLETE PACKAGE OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES HAD THE UNIQUE TASK OF CREATING A NEW CONCEPT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSHIPS.

- BERNAMA MORE 1303/AB

NO23 (F)

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 7 KUALA LUMPUR

HE HOPED THE SEMINAR WOULD ACT +AS A WINDOW+ THROUGH WHICH INVESTORS WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST FOR PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS IN THESE AREAS.

THE TWO DAY-SEMINAR-THE FIRST EVER ORGANISED -- IS BEING ATTENDED BY BOTH MALAYSIAN AND FOREIGN INVESTORS. -  
BERNAMA 1306/AB